

Dear Sir or Madame:

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election smacks of political partisanship and is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The anti-Kerry producers of this attack ad are being allowed to air it without cost, a clear violation of airwave rules.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced that is a fair and balanced look at the upcoming election, what we get is something produced at "News Central" far away that is nothing but a thinly veiled political ad by a company whose executives have already contributed more than \$100,000 to Republicans.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

This company has a track record - refusing to air a Nightline show designed to honor those soldiers who gave their lives in Iraq, and refusing to air a DNC advertisement because it disagreed with the content of the ad.  
Thank you.